

Early Hearing Loss Detection, Diagnosis, and Intervention Program (EHDDI)

What is the service?

- All infants born in Washington are screened for the “**1-3-6 National goals**”:
 - Hearing loss screening before discharge or up to **1** month of age
 - If positive, diagnostic evaluation from pediatric audiologist by **3** months of age
 - If hearing loss found, enrollment in early intervention programs by **6** months of age
- Tracking and surveillance system in Washington State is performed to assess if the 1-3-6 goals are being met and to evaluate the program.
- For a more detailed overview of the program, go to the website: www.doh.wa.gov/ehddi
 - Report to Washington State Board of Health members: [Universal Newborn Hearing Screening in Washington State, April 2005](#)

How/where is the service provided?

- Most hearing screening occurs prior to newborn hospital discharge. Currently, 68 of 69 birthing hospitals have universal newborn hearing screening programs.
- EHDDI supports Universal Newborn Hearing Screening by:
 - 1) Monitoring if every infant receives a newborn hearing screening result through screening results submitted to the state by birthing hospitals.
 - 2) Assisting in follow-up care by contacting the child’s Primary Care Provider if they have an abnormal hearing screen result.
 - 3) Providing Quality Assessment and Control through program evaluation and ongoing reports to birthing facilities doing this screening

Eligibility

- No eligibility requirements
- Goal is screening of 100% of all infants born in Washington State

Who is receiving service?

Washington State Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Rates, 2005¹

Year	Percent of Infants Screened
1998	3.9
1999	7.6
2000	23.5
2001	42.4
2002	62.2
2003	81.3

2004	85.0
2005 (Estimated)	95.0

Issues/concerns¹

- Unexpected program implementation delays may have caused lower screening rate than expected for 2004
- Concerns about infants lost to follow-up
- Additional evaluation needed to identify and support follow-up care for at-risk infants.
- Inadequate early intervention opportunities for those infants identified with hearing loss.
- Policy and regulatory challenges with voluntary versus required newborn hearing screening
- Sustainability for Universal Newborn Hearing Screening